

## STATE ROUTE 127 SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

### General Route Information

- Total route length in District 8 is 41.5 miles.
- Segment 1: PM L0.00/0.64 Baker, Jct Rte 15 to School Road
- Segment 2: PM0.64/41.47 School Road to San Bernardino/Inyo County Line
- Route provides link between California and Nevada.
- Major access road to Death Valley National Park.
- Interregional and recreational travel are primary uses.
- 2-lane undivided conventional highway
- No access control
- Rural Minor Arterial
- Primary System
- Part of Interregional Road System
- Part of Freeway and Expressway System
- Eligible as State Scenic Highway but not designated
- Part of California State Highways Truck Network and designated as Terminal access Route
- Not included in the Subsystem of Highways for the movement of Extra-Legal Permit Loads (SHELL) system; nor AB 866 or Federal Highway Administration designate this route suitable for larger trucks.
- No parallel routes
- No passing lanes
- No right/left turn lanes
- No HOV lanes
- Rolling Terrain
- AHS: 60
- No Special Features
- Surface type-"H" AC base and surface (at least 7" thick)
- Outside Shoulder 8ft- untreated on each side of highway
- Inside Shoulder 0
- Right-of-way width: 40ft
- Sight restriction: 38%
- Traveled Way 24ft
- Class 3 route (lowest priority) maintain only (keep route open and in safe operating condition).
- No capital or operating improvements planned through 2015

### Roadway Conditions:

- Hwy Capacity Rating (Segment 1-Jct Rte 15 to School Rd) 1995: "C" 2015: "D"

(Segment 2-School Rd to SBd/Inyo Co Ln) 1995: "A" 2015 "B"

- Number of travel lanes 2
- Width of travel lanes 12 to 14ft (mostly 12ft)
- Width of emergency parking lanes none
- Left and right turn lanes none
- Divided highway segments none
- General pavement conditions some pavement cracking-no shoulders-trucks can cause damage if they run on the edge of the pavement-District 9 performs maintenance on the route
- Truck weight and size restrictions no weight restrictions-a high route-needs 1 pilot car for Loads over 10ft, 2 pilot cars for loads over 12ft
- Steep grades Route elevation rises at Ibex Pass (Inyo/San BDO Co Ln) to 2090 ft.  
  
Grades: under 3%: 46%  
3% to 6%: 42%  
over 6%: 12%
- Sharp Curves Between postmiles 37.73 and 39.47, there is one 45mph curve and two 50 mph curves

### Traffic and Safety Conditions

- Traffic Counts by vehicle classifications

1997 Annual Average AADT:

	<u>Vehicle AADT</u>	<u>Truck AADT</u>	<u>Truck % Tot Veh</u>	<u>Yr/Ver/Est</u>
Jct. Rte. 15, Baker	4350	448	10.2	1993 Est
Saratoga Spring Rd	550	56	10.3	1993 Est

Caltrans District 9, Inyo County, Death Valley National Park and Shoshone Chamber of Commerce conducted a travel survey in March and May of 1994 on Route 127 in Inyo County to establish baseline data travel patterns: traffic mix in accessing potential impacts if designated a preferred route for hauling of high nuclear waste.

Between mid-December 1994 and the end of December 1995, south of SR-178, machine vehicle counts were collected by District 9 to determine vehicle mix. 308,332 vehicles were counted. 82% were passenger vehicles, 11% were trucks, 6% were RVs and 1% were buses. These counts should also be reflective of the District 8 region, as there are no other intersecting routes Between I-15 and SR-178.

- Accident statistics for past three years/types of accidents

4-1-96 to 3-31-99: 25 accidents, 1 fatality, 16 injuries  
1 sideswipe, 14 hit objects, 10 overturns

Types of vehicles involved: 14 passenger cars, 3 truck/tractor w/trailer, 6 pickup/panel trucks,  
2 pickup/panel truck w/trailer

Actual accident rate: .75 per million vehicle miles of travel

Average statewide rate for similar facilities in same period: 1.29 per MVM

- Seasonal weather conditions-months likely to affect commercial truck operations

Route is subject to flash flooding/wind/high summer temperature (over 100 degrees not uncommon)

- Proposed construction activities resulting in lane closures

None except cyclical maintenance.

### **Special Operating Conditions**

- Restriction of route for hazardous material

Questions on hazardous waste should be directed to CHP 916-327-3310

- Time of day or week restrictions on hazardous material shipments

Questions on hazardous waste should be directed to CHP 916-327-3310

- Dates of special events which would cause significant traffic congestion

Death Valley 49er's Annual Encampment – second week in November

Thanksgiving and President's Day brings thousands of people to the Dumont Dunes area  
For organized sand drags and hill climbs.

Recreational peaks in spring and fall

- Tourist and special commuter conditions

## **Vehicle Operating Considerations**

- Driver services: fuel, food repair and rest facilities

Baker has convenience stores, restaurants, hardware and auto parts, gas stations, garages and towing services. After leaving the town of Baker, next services are 53 miles in Shoeshone. Additional facilities are in Death Valley National Park at Furnace Creek and Stovepipe Wells – small convenience/general stores, gas stations, campgrounds, dining facilities, golf course,

- No reststop facilities in District 8 region.
- There are call boxes all along the route.
- Communications dead spots

Some cellular phones may be beyond operating range.

- Emergency response and recovery services

Local fire, police and ambulance services in Baker. Towing services are capable of clearing semi-trucks and trailer rigs, motor homes and tour busses.

## **Other Factors**

- Residential development within half mile of roadway

Residential housing mostly in Baker. Remainder of route traverses mostly BLM land through San Bernardino County.

- Population per square mile

Population of Baker is about 950. Between Baker and Shoeshone, mostly remote BLM land.

- Schools , hospitals, convention and large meeting facilities

One school in Baker

No hospitals, convention or large meeting facilities

- Other factors effecting normal operation of a combination commercial vehicle

Desert Route is subject to flash flooding, wind and extreme summer temperatures.